

Application No. 8

Countywide

APPLICATION SUMMARY

Applicant/Representative:

Miami- Dade County

Department of Planning and Zoning
111 NW 1 Street, Suite 1110
Miami, Florida 33128-1972

Park and Recreation Department
275 NW 2nd Street
Miami, Florida 33128-1972

Location:

Countywide

Requested Text Changes:

- A. Revise the text in the Recreation and Open Space Element to reflect the 2007 *Miami-Dade County Parks and Open Space Master Plan (OSPM)*.
- B. Revise the Recreation and Open Space Element to reflect other updates and policy changes not related to OSMP, including revisions to Policy ROS-4E, allowing new mechanisms for accepting open space conservation areas; and revisions to Policy ROS-5C iii, allowing greater protection of park sites with natural, historical, or archeological resources.

Amendment Type:

Standard Text Amendment

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff:

ADOPT AND TRANSMIT (August 25, 2009), modified to **ADOPT with CHANGES and TRANSMIT** in accordance with the Park and Recreation Department memorandum dated October 2, 2009

NOT APPLICABLE

Community Councils:

Planning Advisory Board (PAB) acting as
Local Planning Agency:

ADOPT WITH CHANGES AND TRANSMIT (Park and Recreation Department made further changes to proposed new Policies ROS-8B, 8C, and 8D, by adding language emphasizing equitable access to local parks and open space, and clarifying where certain County plans and regulations would be updated) (October 5, 2009)

Board of County Commissioners:

ADOPT WITH CHANGES AND TRANSMIT in accordance with Staff recommendation contained in the October 2, 2009 memorandum from the Park and Recreation Department (November 4, 2009)

TO BE DETERMINED

Final Recommendation of PAB acting as
Local Planning Agency:

Final Action of Board of County
Commissioners:

TO BE DETERMINED

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends: **ADOPT AND TRANSMIT** the proposed amendment based on the Staff conclusions summarized below:

1. The proposed amendment serves to satisfy Policy ROS-4G of the Recreation and Open Space Element, which calls for the update to the 1969 Recreation Open Space Master Plan to be completed by 2010. In compliance with Policy ROS-4G, the *Miami-Dade County Park and Open Space System Master Plan*, also known as the Open Space Master Plan (OSMP) was finalized in 2007 and approved by the Board of County Commissioners (BCC) in February 19, 2008 by Resolution No. R-171-08 (See Appendix). The OSMP provides a 50-year planning vision for Miami-Dade County and is intended to serve as a catalyst for a more sustainable and livable community through the creation of an interconnected system of communities, parks, public spaces, natural and cultural areas, greenways, water trails and streets. The plan also provides guideline principles to ensure a beautiful, well designed seamless system of parks and open spaces that encourage revitalization of neighborhoods and accessibility to recreation opportunities. The OSMP took several years to develop and is based on a comprehensive analysis of other park systems in the US and around the world, an assessment of Miami-Dade County, as well as findings from a Countywide public participation and outreach effort, which included the Great Parks Summit in 2006 (See Appendix). Although the OSMP is intended to be a Countywide plan, it is important to note that it is not a capital development plan, but rather a vision document that articulates goals and policies for park and public realm development in the future. The intent of the proposed amendment is to update the adopted text of the Recreation and Open Space Element to reflect the 2007 OSMP and its concepts.
2. The concepts found in the 2007 OSMP are consistent with and complement the planning themes that guide the Miami-Dade County Comprehensive Development Master Plan, namely: compact development, connectivity, neighborhood planning, complete streets, protection of natural resources, and intergovernmental coordination. Although the themes of the 2007 OSMP are found throughout the CDMP, the proposed amendment seeks to consolidate these key planning themes into a new objective in the Recreation and Open Space Element. The new objective and its related policies are intended to provide a policy framework, timeline, and monitoring measures for carrying out the concepts found in the 2007 OSMP: Great Parks, the Great Public Spaces, Great Natural and Cultural Heritage Areas, the Great Greenways and Blueways, and the Great Streets.
3. Although the 1969 Recreation Open Space Master Plan guided the Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department to become the fifth largest and most diverse park system in the United States, the 2007 OSMP provides a new approach for accommodating the demands of growth and development that is more suited to meeting the County's existing growth management challenges. Unlike in the past, when land and opportunities for growth appeared to be more abundant, today, continued population growth, declining open space, and increased property values have made it increasingly difficult to provide the level of service standards (LOS) outlined in the CDMP, particularly in compact urban settings. The existing LOS in the CDMP for parks and open space is measured by acreage. It does not take into account the specific recreation and open space needs of communities in the urban, suburban, rural and natural areas; nor does it account for equitable access to recreation, open spaces, natural and cultural resources. The proposed text change calls for the development of a new a LOS for parks and recreational open spaces that is based on

access criteria and neighborhood needs. The intent of the new, yet to be developed LOS standards, along with the other recommended policies in the proposed text amendment, is to create a park system that facilitates the development of more sustainable and livable communities.

4. In addition to the text changes related to the 2007 OSMP, the proposed amendment also seeks to revise the following policies in the Recreation and Open Space Element:
 - Policies ROS-3B and ROS-5F need to be updated to reflect the official names of South and the North Miami-Dade Greenway Master Plans.
 - Policy ROS-4E deals with the acquisition, renovation, restoration, and development or recreation and open space facilities. Currently, the County does not have a mechanisms for allowing acceptance of conservation easements or donated land for establishment of open space conservation areas. The proposed revision to the policy would allow the establishment of such mechanisms.
 - Policy ROS-5C, section iii, calls for the redevelopment of park facilities that are no longer functional, whose use has changed, or that require building code upgrades. If such a facility contains important natural, historic, or archaeological resources, the proposed policy revision would allow for such sites to be considered for Heritage Park designation, if appropriate. The intent of this revision is to allow greater protection of such sites.
 - Monitoring Measure ROS-7 requires the completion of a leisure interest survey by 2010. The Park and Recreation Department completed the survey; therefore, the monitoring measure can be deleted. The results of the survey will form the basis for developing specific recreation and capital program recommendations.

REQUESTED TEXT AMENDMENT

The following are the proposed text changes related to the 2007 Open Space Master Plan, as well other updates and revisions to the Recreation and Open Space Element of the CDMP. The detailed inventory data and analysis of existing and future needs on which the proposed text changes are based can be found in the *2007 Parks and Open Space System Master Plan* (See Appendix).

A. Revisions to the Recreation and Open Space Element Related to the 2007 Open Space Master Plan

- 1) **Revise the Introduction of the Recreation and Open Space Element, starting on page VI-1, to include information on the 2007 Open Space Master Plan as follows:**

Introduction

The Recreation and Open Space Element specifically addresses open spaces and facilities which provide recreational opportunities as their primary function (recreation open space). Miami-Dade County contains many open spaces that serve a primary purpose other than active public recreation and while these open spaces have a significant recreational and aesthetic value, they are not addressed in this Element. Those open spaces, including such examples as the National and State parks and preserves as well as State Water Conservation Areas and other wetlands which have critical environmental and wildlife value, are addressed in the Conservation, Aquifer Recharge and Drainage, Coastal Management and Land Use Elements. Other open spaces such as the agricultural areas and open lands are addressed in the Land Use Element.

On February 19, 2008, the Miami-Dade County Board of County Commissioners (BCC) approved the *Miami-Dade County Park and Open Space System Master Plan*, also known as the Open Space Master Plan (OSMP), as an update to the 1969 Recreation Open Space Master Plan. The Open Space Master Plan creates a long term vision for a new, interconnected framework for growth; one that results in a more livable, sustainable community. Consisting of existing and proposed parks, public spaces, natural and cultural places, greenways, trails and streets, the framework for parks and open space will form the foundation for the County to accommodate growth while also improving the quality of life for residents. The guiding principles of the Open Space Master Plan, as well as the vision for a seamless, sustainable parks and open space system are incorporated into the goal, objectives and policies of this element. Realization of the vision will occur over time requiring completion of the efforts described in the Goal, Objectives and Policies of the Recreation & Open Space Element.

Currently, All all recreation open spaces addressed by this Element are categorized as either countywide or local. Countywide recreation open spaces meet the diverse recreational needs of Miami-Dade County residents and tourists on a countywide basis, and are classified as metropolitan parks, natural area preserves, special activity areas, district and/or greenways. Local recreation open spaces meet the close-to-home recreational needs of the residents of specific areas within the County, and are classified as mini-, neighborhood, single-purpose, or community parks. In addition, local recreation

open spaces include designated public school and college playfields and portions of private recreation open space. Miami-Dade County is responsible for the provision of countywide recreation open space throughout the County, and of local recreation open space to unincorporated areas.

Service areas for local recreation open spaces and park classifications are the primary criteria used to determine future park locations and conduct capacity evaluations. The Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department determines service areas for local parks that serve unincorporated areas. These service areas are based on park size, existing or planned facilities, and public recreation demand. The following table summarizes Miami-Dade County's park classification criteria and service areas:

Table 1

Park Classification Criteria and Service Areas					
Classification	Primary Use	Staffing	Programming	Acreage	Service Area
Countywide					
Metropolitan Natural Area Preserve	Resource	Yes	Yes	200+	Countywide
Special Activity Area	Resource	No	No	2+	Countywide
District	User	Yes	Yes	n/a	Countywide
Greenways	User	Yes	Yes	100-200	5 miles
		No	No	n/a	Countywide
Local					
Community	User	Yes	Yes	30-100	3.5 miles
Single-Purpose	User	No	Yes	5+	3 miles
Neighborhood	User	No	No	5-10	1 mile
Mini-Parks	User	No	No	<=1	.5 mile

Source: Miami-Dade County Park and Recreation Department

In order to provide an optimum balance of local recreation open space throughout unincorporated areas, the County has identified the following benchmarks as desirable: the provision of five acres of neighborhood recreation open space per 5,500 unincorporated area residents; the provision of 30 acres of community recreation open space per 50,000 unincorporated area residents; and, the provision of 200 acres of district recreation open space per 220,000 unincorporated area residents. These benchmarks are used only as broad guidelines, and are not adopted as Level of Service (LOS) standards.

The Adopted Components of this Element contain the Recreation and Open Space Goal, Objectives and Policies including the map of Park Benefit Districts (PBDs), and procedures for monitoring and evaluating progress toward Plan implementation. The 1988 *Support Components* report, the 1995 *Evaluation and Appraisal Report (EAR)*, and the 2003 *Evaluation and Appraisal Report, and the 2007 Parks and Open Space System Master Plan* contain inventory data and analysis of existing and future needs and the policy framework within which this Element was formulated.

- 2) **Delete Policy ROS-4G, on page VI-10, as well as the related monitoring measure on page VI-16, which require the completion of the Open Space Master Plan**

(OSMP) by 2010. Since the 2007 OSMP was completed, the text is no longer necessary.

~~ROS-4G. The Park and Recreation Department shall update the 1969 Recreation Open Space Master Plan by 2010 to guide the restoration and development of the park and recreation open space system through a 20-year planning horizon. The Plan shall include information and recommendations addressing such matters as the following: 1) current and projected park users; 2) the park and recreation system's natural, scenic, historical, and cultural values; 3) the current and projected supply and demand for recreation opportunity; 4) significant regional resources; 5) linkages among existing resources; 6) current and projected park and recreation system deficiencies and needs; and, 7) action steps necessary to achieve goals and objectives through a diverse combination of financing methods, partnerships, and interagency coordination.~~

Monitoring Requirements

Objective ROS-4

- ~~Completion of the Recreation Open Space Master Plan by the 2010 target date.~~

- 3) Add Objective ROS-8 and Policies ROS-8A to ROS-G on page VI-15, after Policy ROS-7C, as follows:

Objective ROS-8

The 2007 Miami-Dade County Parks and Open Space System Master Plan (OSMP), through a 50-year planning horizon, shall guide the creation of an interconnected framework of parks, public spaces, natural and cultural areas, greenways, trails, and streets that promote sustainable communities, the health and wellness of County residents, and that serve the diverse local, national, and international communities.

Policies

ROS-8A. By 2017, Miami-Dade County shall conduct a countywide evaluation of neighborhoods for access to recreation and open space areas, using the "Public Parks and Open Space Activity Criteria" and the neighborhood context planning approach as described in the *Miami-Dade Parks and Open Space System Master Plan*. The neighborhood evaluation shall consider the parks and open space needs of communities in the urban, suburban, rural and natural areas of the County, assure equitable access to recreation, open spaces, natural resources, and social/cultural venues, and facilitate neighborhood stability and redevelopment.

ROS-8B. By 2013, the County shall develop Level of Service (LOS) standards for parks and recreational open spaces using the "Public Parks and Open

Space Activity/Access Criteria” detailed in the *Miami-Dade Parks and Open Space System Master Plan*.

ROS-8C. By 2012, Miami-Dade County shall develop and adopt the Parks and Open Space Design Criteria or “Pattern Book”, which shall guide the development of the public realm. The public realm includes new and existing parks, public spaces, natural and cultural areas, greenways, trails, street corridors, and private spaces that are open to the public. The criteria shall promote beauty, community character and connectivity and include standards to assure compatibility with adjoining uses, conservation and energy efficiency, as well as signage and way-finding requirements. Upon the adoption of the Parks and Open Space Design Criteria, all new development and redevelopment, including all public and private development, shall implement these criteria.

ROS-8D. By 2013, Miami-Dade County shall update the *Miami-Dade Urban Design Manual*, the *Standard Details of the Public Works Manual*, and other relevant county plans and regulations to incorporate the “Great Streets Planning Principles” contained in the *Miami-Dade Parks and Open Space System Master Plan and incorporation of “Complete Streets” components, where feasible*. Changes to be incorporated include a hierarchy of street types and designs (gateway streets, civic streets, heritage streets, and neighborhood streets), and complete street measures such as provision of sidewalks and bicycle facilities, pedestrian friendly design, adequate landscaping and street furniture, on-street parking, bus lanes and transit facilities, and clearly defined crosswalks and signalization to provide safe routes to parks.

ROS-8E. By 2013, Miami-Dade County shall identify new areas to be designated for greenways, trails, and bicycle lanes, and update the North Miami-Dade Greenway Master Plan and South Miami-Dade Greenway Network Master Plan and the CDMP to include such greenways. The update shall include the designation of the Western Greenway. On an on-going basis, Miami-Dade County shall coordinate with State, regional, federal, and local government agencies to establish a countywide interconnected system of non-motorized pathways that link neighborhoods, parks, natural areas, civic centers, schools, and commercial areas to achieve goals and objectives through a diverse combination of financing methods, partnerships, and interagency coordination.

ROS-8E. By 2013, Miami-Dade County shall identify new areas to be designated for greenways, trails, and bicycle lanes, and update the North Miami-Dade Greenway Master Plan and South Miami-Dade Greenway Network Master Plan and the CDMP to include such greenways. The update shall consider the designation of the Western Greenway. On an on-going basis, Miami-Dade County shall coordinate with State, regional, federal, and local government agencies to establish a countywide interconnected system of non-motorized pathways that link neighborhoods, parks, natural areas, civic centers, schools, and commercial areas to achieve goals and objectives through a diverse combination of financing methods, partnerships, and interagency coordination.

ROS-8F. By 2014, Miami-Dade County shall develop a plan for protecting and preserving its natural and historic resources, while assuring that such resources provide access and educational opportunities to the public. The plan shall consider the designation of Environmental Zones (Eco Zones) and Cultural Zones. Eco Zones represent a cluster of natural areas connected together to provide a variety of environmental and educational activities. The Cultural Zones are thematically clustered cultural and historic sites that provide a variety of heritage education activities and programs.

ROS-8G. Miami-Dade County shall encourage the incorporation of meaningful public spaces in the planning and development of libraries, museums, schools, government buildings, transit stations within Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and stand-alone transit stations, and other civic/institutional places.

4) Add monitoring measures for the new Objective ROS-8. The proposed text should be added to the Monitoring Program on page VI-18 as follows:

Objective ROS-8

- Miami-Dade County shall annually log and report in subsequent Evaluation and Appraisal Reports (EAR) specific activities related to implementing seamlessness, access, beauty, sustainability, equity and multiple benefits in unincorporated Miami-Dade County parks and open spaces as described in the *Parks and Open Space System Master Plan*.
- Miami-Dade County shall report in subsequent EARs the number of projects and amount of funds expended to improve the County's parks and open space system.

B. Other Revisions to the Recreation and Open Space Element

1) Revise Policy ROS-3B, on page VI-7, and Policy ROS-5F, on page VI-13, to reflect the official names of South and the North Miami-Dade Greenway Network Master Plans, as follows:

ROS-3B. The County shall improve and promote non-motorized access to existing park and recreation open spaces by implementing the North Miami-Dade Greenways Master Plan and South Miami-Dade Greenway ~~and Blueway~~ Network Master Plan, as well as improved sidewalks and trails, to improve connectivity between parks and residences, schools, activity centers, and transportation nodes.

ROS-5F. Continue to implement and consider expansion of segments of the ~~County~~ North Miami-Dade Greenways Master Plan and South Miami-Dade Greenway Network Master Plan ~~Greenway and Blueway Network~~ that provide recreation and environmental benefits while improving connectivity to parks, natural areas, and other recreational facilities.

- 2) **Revise Policy ROS-4E, on page VI-9, to allow mechanisms that would enable the County to accept conservation easements and donated land for establishment of open space conservation areas:**

ROS-4E. The County shall continue implementation of capital projects funded by 1996 Safe Neighborhood Park, 2004 Building Better Communities General Obligation Bond and 2000-2004 Quality Neighborhood Improvement Bond proceeds available for the acquisition, renovation, restoration, and development of recreation open spaces and facilities, and that these activities can be accomplished in a timely fashion. The Park and Recreation Department will continue to explore both fee-simple and less-than-fee-simple mechanisms for the establishment of open space conservation areas and will seek additional funds in any future bond issue that the County may propose.

- 3) **Revise section iii of ROS-5C, on page VI-13, to allow certain park sites to be designated as Heritage Parks, where appropriate:**

Policy ROS-5C

- iii) The Park and Recreation Department will redevelop facilities that are no longer functional, whose use has changed, or that require building code upgrades. Park sites containing important natural, historic, or archaeological resources will be developed and managed for the long-term sustainability and integrity of the resource and where appropriate considered for designation as Heritage Parks.

- 4) **Delete the monitoring measure for ROS-7, on page VI-17, which requires the completion of the leisure interest survey by 2010. The survey was completed.**

Objective ROS-7

- ~~Completion of a leisure interest survey by the 2010 target date.~~

Consistency Review with CDMP Goals, Objectives, Policies, Concepts and Guidelines

The following is a list of the objectives and policies in the CDMP that are consistent with the proposed text amendment:

Policy CM-5C. Miami-Dade County shall continue to place a high priority on the acquisition of coastal lands for use as parks and preserves.

Policy CM-5E. The use of causeways, road rights-of-way and canal easements at shorelines shall be expanded wherever possible and additional sites sought to provide public access for water-related activities.

Policy CON-7D. Management plans shall be developed to govern all development activity within all natural communities on County-owned lands to protect natural and historic resources. The Department of Environmental Resources Management (DERM) and the Office of Historic Preservation shall assist

the appropriate County agencies in the development of these plans, which shall be subject to public review and comment as they are prepared and implemented.

- Objective ICE-1.** Maintain and improve coordination of planning, development and impact assessment among governmental entities with applicable responsibilities within Miami-Dade County's area of concern.
- Policy ICE-3D.** Encourage the establishment of formal agreements among the necessary governmental bodies to implement coordinated planning for the development of public facilities and services.
- Policy HO-7A.** Ensure that growth management, housing design, development alternatives form an integral part of a community of functional neighborhoods and town centers that promote community identity, and enhance the overall quality of life.
- Policy LU-1D.** In conducting its planning, regulatory, capital improvements and intergovernmental coordination activities, Miami-Dade County shall seek to facilitate the planning of residential areas as neighborhoods which include recreational, educational and other public facilities, houses of worship, and safe and convenient circulation of automotive, pedestrian and bicycle traffic.
- Policy LU-1H.** The County should identify sites having good potential to serve as greenbelts, and should recommend retention and enhancement strategies, where warranted. Such greenbelts should be suggested on the basis of their ability to provide aesthetically pleasing urban spaces, recreational opportunities, or wildlife benefits. Considered sites should include canal, road or powerline rights-of-way, or portions thereof, particularly where they could link other parklands, wildlife habitats, or other open spaces.
- Policy LU-1I.** The County shall consider urban design, water and energy conservation and wildlife habitat when designing sites and selecting landscape material for all public projects
- Policy LU-6A.** Miami-Dade County shall continue to identify, seek appropriate designation, and protect properties of historic, architectural and archaeological significance.
- Policy LU-6C.** Miami-Dade County shall seek financial resources to develop, and promote implementation of management plans for the preservation, protection and adaptive reuse of historic and archaeological resources on County property.
- Policy LU-6L.** Through the Office of Historic Preservation in consultation with the Department of Planning and Zoning, Miami-Dade County shall formulate procedures for establishing Thematic Resource Districts (TRDs). These overlay districts shall contain architectural and landscape design guidelines, and may authorize approval of additional compatible uses, consistent with and which promote the purposes of the particular district.

- Policy LU-10C.** Miami-Dade County shall encourage energy conservation by adopting Florida Green Building Coalition, US Green Building Council Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED), or other acceptable commercial building standards for County-owned facilities.
- Objective ROS-1.** Access to parks and recreational facilities will be improved in Miami-Dade County by 2010.
- Policy ROS-1A.** Countywide park and recreation open spaces shall be provided to meet the diverse needs of all Miami-Dade residents and tourists. They shall continue to be established on the presence or development of regionally significant natural, historic, cultural, or tourism resources. Countywide park and recreation open spaces include Metropolitan Parks, Natural Area Preserves, Special Activity Areas, District Parks, and Greenways. Countywide parks may include areas owned by other public agencies but managed by the County for passive public recreational purposes. The County shall be responsible for providing countywide park and recreation open spaces to all Miami-Dade County residents and tourists.
- Policy ROS-2D.** The County will periodically research, review, and modify the LOS standard as necessary to ensure that it accurately reflects public recreational demand within unincorporated Miami-Dade County. LOS standard updates shall reflect the expressed recreational demand of residents, and the facilities necessary to serve the demand, measured by the minimum amount of land required to support these facilities.
- Policy ROS-3A.** The County shall continue to improve motorized access to parks and recreation open spaces on roads and mass transit routes for autos, bicycles, and public transport through the joint efforts of the Park and Recreation Department, the Public Works Department, and the Transit Agency, as well as other concerned County agencies where deemed necessary by the Park and Recreation Department.
- Policy ROS-3B.** The County shall improve and promote non-motorized access to existing park and recreation open spaces by implementing the North and South Miami-Dade Greenway and Blueway Network, as well as improved sidewalks and trails, to improve connectivity between parks and residences, schools, activity centers, transportation nodes.
- Policy ROS-3C.** The Miami-Dade Park and Recreation Department shall continue to provide improved access for persons with disabilities by removing architectural barriers to program participation. Actions include retrofitting existing building components to comply with the 1991 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).
- Policy ROS-3D.** Through its park and recreation programs and all other available means, Miami-Dade County shall preserve and protect beaches and shores and maximize public ownership of these coastal resources. The County shall improve the maintenance of existing public park and recreation entrances and shall, where feasible, provide additional access points at waterfront and coastal locations.

- Objective ROS-4.** The County shall maintain a capital financing plan to enable provision of park and recreation open spaces and facilities through a variety of public and private sources.
- Policy ROS-4D.** The County shall continue to explore the use of special taxing districts and other dedicated funding mechanisms for the long-term provision and management of park and recreation open space and facilities, especially where they offer economic advantages to the County and residents.
- Policy ROS-4F.** The Park and Recreation Department will collaborate with County agencies that oversee funding programs and accounts related to horticulture, arboriculture, environmental mitigation, hazard mitigation, transportation, crime prevention, tourist development, and community and economic development, which can potentially benefit local residents through the enhancement of parks and recreation programs, should assist with the implementation of the policies in this Element by participating in inter-agency partnerships to address, for example, the following: i.) Acquisition of parkland through leases and management agreements, forfeitures of land, and developer dedications or conveyances
- Policy ROS 4G.** The Park and Recreation Department shall update the 1969 Recreation Open Space Master Plan by 2010 to guide the restoration and development of the park and recreation open space system through a 20-year planning horizon. The Plan shall include information and recommendations addressing such matters as the following: 1) current and projected park users; 2) the park and recreation system's natural, scenic, historical, and cultural values; 3) the current and projected supply and demand for recreation opportunity; 4) significant regional resources; 5) linkages among existing resources; 6) current and projected park and recreation system deficiencies and needs; and, 7) action steps necessary to achieve goals and objectives through a diverse combination of financing methods, partnerships, and interagency coordination.
- Objective ROS-5.** Maintain a formal capital improvements planning program that improves and expands the park and recreation system through the acquisition of land, the renovation and restoration of facilities and natural areas, and development of new park and recreation open space and facilities, and the linking of parks and other public spaces.
- Policy ROS-5A.** The County shall prioritize capital improvement expenditures in accordance with the following criteria: 1) Acquire local parkland to maintain the adopted LOS standard for local recreation open space by correcting existing deficiencies and addressing future needs, and acquire countywide parkland suitable for compatible outdoor recreation while preserving natural, historical, and cultural resources; 2) renovate, restore, and upgrade existing recreation open spaces and facilities; and, 3) develop new recreation open spaces and facilities within undeveloped or incomplete parks.
- Policy ROS-5C.** The Park and Recreation Department shall, as funds are available, renovate, restore, and upgrade County facilities to ensure that the public

can safely and securely enjoy recreational opportunities, and that the County can cost-effectively extend the useful life of existing facilities. Expenditures for the renovation, restoration and upgrade of existing parks and recreation facilities are prioritized as follows: 1) repairs and projects increasing visitor safety; 2) hazard reduction; 3) facility upgrade and resource management; 4) accessibility improvements in compliance with ADA; and, 5) energy efficiency improvements. The County shall implement projects and activities including but not limited to the following in order to address these priorities:

- Policy ROS-5F.** Continue to implement and consider expansion of segments of the County Greenway and Blueway Network that provide recreation and environmental benefits while improving connectivity to parks, natural areas, and other recreational facilities.
- Objective ROS-6.** Maintain and continue to implement the comprehensive resource management program for the acquisition and site-specific management of environmentally sensitive lands, coastal areas and historic sites within Miami-Dade County parks.
- Policy ROS 6B.** Those portions of park properties containing important natural, historic, or archaeological resources will be developed and managed for long-term viability and integrity of the resource. Miami-Dade County shall use all practical means to assure that land in the vicinity of such park properties is developed for a use that is compatible with the protection of the natural, historic or archaeological resources. Through its park and recreation programs the County shall, wherever feasible, acquire and reuse historic buildings and sites to benefit the public. Opportunities for public access to the resource will be developed in a manner consistent with the conservation or preservation of the resource.
- Policy ROS 6C.** At natural resource sites, park design programs shall incorporate resource management plans for resource maintenance, restoration, and enhancement, into the design plan for park development or redevelopment.
- Policy ROS-7A.** The Park and Recreation Department shall continue to survey County residents and tourists to assess participation patterns and identify priorities for the delivery of services. By the next Evaluation and Appraisal Report an updated leisure interest survey should be completed to reevaluate changes in recreation demand and participation patterns.
- Policy ROS-7B.** Public participation in all aspects of site planning, facility construction, and park operations shall continue through the use of public workshops and presentations, focus group interviews, citizen advisory boards, and public hearings.
- Policy ROS-7C.** The County will increase public awareness of available recreational opportunities through increasingly sophisticated public information techniques.

- Policy TC-6F.** Design new roadways in such a manner as to make them compatible with the surrounding environment, complement adjacent development and provide aesthetically pleasing visual experience to the user and the adjacent areas.
- Policy TE-2A .** The County shall continue to promote and assist in the creation of a Countywide system of interconnected designated bicycle ways, and promote the implementation of the Miami-Dade Bicycle Facilities Plan.
- Policy TE-2C.** In road construction and reconstruction projects, roadway designs shall protect and promote pedestrian comfort, safety and attractiveness in locations where the Land Use Element seeks to promote activity along road frontages, such as in areas planned for community- or neighborhood-serving businesses and all planned Urban Center and transit station locations. Such measures should include, wherever feasible, on-street parking, wide sidewalks, and abundant landscaping at the street edge. Additionally, boulevard section designs should be utilized where appropriate, including central through lanes and frontage lanes for local traffic and parking, separated from the through lanes by landscaped areas, with frequent opportunities for pedestrians to safely cross the through lanes, and right of way to facilitate these designs should be reserved or acquired where necessary. Roadway pedestrian facility considerations shall also be consistent with the policies addressing pedestrianism contained in the Land Use Element.
- Policy WS-1F.** Miami-Dade County shall use all practical means to assure that land in the vicinity of water and wastewater treatment facilities is developed for a use that is compatible with the operation of said facilities. The County shall discourage changes to the Land Use Plan map or land development regulations, which would permit land uses that are incompatible with the continued operation or planned expansion of these facilities. Residential uses shall be considered incompatible with these public facilities where spillovers, particularly noise and odor, can reasonably be expected.